

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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UNCLAS BRUSSELS 15980

POSTS FOR DEA/FROM ASAIC EATON

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SNAR
SUBJECT: AVAILABILITY OF LEGALLY CONTROLLED MEDICATIONS
TO AMERICANS TRAVELLING ABROAD

REF: STATE 255976 (DTG 261505Z OCT 77)

1.(A) BELGIUM DOES NOT HAVE GOVERNMENT CONTROLLED
METHADONE CLINICS. A DRUG ABUSE PATIENT COULD, UPON
ARRIVAL IN BELGIUM, PRESENT HIMSELF TO A LICENSED
PHYSICIAN AND ASK FOR ASSISTANCE. THIS WOULD, OF COURSE,
ENTAIL PHYSICAL EXAMINATION, ETC., AS NO BELGIAN DOCTOR
WOULD PRESCRIBE MEDICATION FOR DRUG ABUSE TREATMENT
WITHOUT DOING THIS PROCEEDURE. PERHAPS A LETTER FROM AN
AMERICAN DOCTOR DESCRIBING THE PATIENT'S ILLNESS WOULD
BE HELPFUL, BUT, WOULD CERTAINLY NOT AUTOMATICALLY CAUSE
THE BELGIAN PHYSICIAN TO PRESCRIBE MEDICATION.

(B) THE LAWS GOVERNING THE TRANSPORTATION OF CONTROLLED
SUBSTANCES, IN THIS CASE CONTROLLED MEDICATIONS, CONTAINING
NARCOTICS WOULD ONLY BE COVERED FOR THE AMOUNT LEGALLY
PRESCRIBED AND DOCUMENTED BY PHYSICIAN ORDINANCE, WHEN A
PERSON CROSSES INTO ANOTHER COUNTRY. IT IS SUGGESTED
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HERE THAT THE PATIENT PRESENT HIMSELF AT THE BORDER WITH
HIS DOCUMENTATION AND BE PREPARED TO SHOW THAT HE IS
CARRYING ONLY THAT AMOUNT PRESCRIBED BY THE PHYSICIAN.
OF COURSE, THE PROBLEM COULD ARISE WHEREBY THE COUNTRY
BEING ENTERED HAS DIFFERENT LAWS, SAY FOR A LESSER AMOUNT
THAT CAN LEGALLY BE HELD, AND CAUSE THE PATIENT TO
GIVE UP A PORTION OF WHAT HE POSSESSES AT THE BORDER.

THERE IS NO, REPEAT NO, PROVISION IN BELGIUM WHEREBY SOMEONE CAN BE CONTACTED FROM THE EXTERIOR TO ARRANGE FOR SUPPLIES OF MEDICATION PRIOR TO ARRIVAL OF THE PATIENT.

2. POSSESSION OF PSYCHOTROPIC DRUGS IN BELGIUM IS A FEDERAL OFFENSE. SEVERE PENALTIES ARE IN EFFECT IF ONE IS APPREHENDED. OF COURSE, THERE ARE MITIGATING CIRCUMSTANCES THAT GOVERN EACH CASE AND HOLDING A SMALL AMOUNT OF PRESCRIBED DRUGS WOULD NOT IN ITSELF BE CAUSE FOR ARREST. DUE TO THE VERY STRICT DOCTOR/PATIENT RELATIONSHIPS THAT EXIST IN BELGIUM, A DRUG PATIENT IS BEST ADVISED TO CONTACT A PHYSICIAN WHO WILL DETERMINE WHAT COURSE OF ACTION TO TAKE, I.E., PSYCHIATRIC CARE, MEDICATION, ADMISSION TO A CLINIC FOR TREATMENT, ETC. CHAMBERS

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Message Attributes

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